

Remarks:

The enclosed is in response to the PTO document dated 8/26/04
All of the requests have been complied with.

Enclosed herewith are replacement drawings of figures: 1, 2, 2a, 4, 5, 6, and 13.

Enclosed herewith are clean and clearer versions of drawings of figures: 7,8,9,10,11,12 along with the immediate prior versions. No new matter has been added.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of previously omitted Fig 4a. Fig 4a is an example of a prior art design of a "T" interstate interchange. It is not part of the applicants invention.

Enclosed herewith are amended claims. There are 3 independent claims and a total of 20 claims.

Enclosed herewith are specification amendments which deletes reference to Figure 4a and corrects minor errors.

The applicant intends to bring this design to the attention of all state transportation departments and the federal transportation department as soon as the application is published. The design should save many lives every year and should save all of the transportation departments millions of dollars every year.

 9/14/04

Highway 13 undergoing two projects

Rep. Sherman calls for safety improvements

By KEVIN O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

Motorists traveling through Washburn on State Highway 13 have had to add a few minutes to their commute as the result of a roadside project to extend a water pipeline to residents in the town of Barksdale on Nolander Road.

Long lines of cars, trucks, and RVs extend south on the highway every day as drivers wait their turn to proceed slowly through the one lane of traffic passing through the construction zone.

Brad Nave, project director for the DuPont Corporate Remediation Group, said in July that it will take "every bit of this year" for the company's contractors to run the line from Washburn to Barksdale, residents whose groundwater was contaminated by a former explosives plant.

The Barksdale water line is the first of two projects scheduled for the heavily-used stretch of Highway 13 between Washburn and Ashland.

Starting either today or early next week, construction crews will start making modifications to the intersection of Highway 13 and U.S. Highway 2.

The right-hand turn lane leading from Highway 13 to westbound Highway 2 will be changed from a stop lane to a merging lane, said Bayfield County Highway Commissioner Dale Brevak.

"That'll give the people waiting at the intersection a better idea of the intentions of oncoming traffic," Brevak said.

The \$150,000 project will also create a "milder curb" and include raised markers to better distinguish between the left and right turn lanes on Highway 13, Brevak said. West-

CONSTRUCTION: Work may take a couple of weeks

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bound traffic on Highway 2 will be restricted to one lane of traffic at the intersection, he added.

Brevak said the work will take a couple of weeks, but he does not anticipate any major traffic disruptions at the intersection.

An eight-month study last year involving county officials, law enforcement officers, and regular citizens concluded that driver error was the biggest cause of accidents at the intersection, Brevak said, so this project was conceived to

"So, we're trying to make it less confusing for people," Brevak said.

Meanwhile, State Assembly Representative Gary Sherman (D-Port Wing) is calling for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to make the intersection even safer after a Duluth woman died in an accident there last month.

Three fatalities have occurred at the intersection since it was redesigned in 1992, Sherman's office said in a press release.

Although the DOT has reported a low incidence of accidents there, Sherman's office said the combination of crossing vehicles and a small holding near the median area for eastbound traffic is confusing and dangerous.

In response to Sherman's request, the press release said DOT officials have considered reexamining the safety of the intersection using a public forum with members of citizens' committee that reviewed the safety concerns several years ago.

"Engineering standards and crash statistics are important, but people are dying here," Sherman said. "If they can find a billion dollars for the Marquette interchange in Milwaukee, they can find a few dollars to save lives up here."

September 2004

Woman dies in crash at intersection of Hwy. 13 and Hwy. 2

By Daily Press Staff

A Duluth woman died Thursday night after her car was struck by a semi truck at the intersection of State Highway 13 and U.S. Highway 2 west of Ashland.

Nancy Jo Sweckard, 51, was southbound on Highway 13 when she stopped at the intersection and then pulled her car out a few feet before stopping again in the west-bound lane of traffic, according to witness reports.

Bayfield County Sheriff Bob Follis said the truck driver, Harold Dean Merritt, 62, of Bristol, Indiana, did not have enough time to fully stop before his semi struck Sweckard's car at the driver's side door.

"She never had a chance," Follis said. "It appeared as though she died instantly."

The accident occurred at 8:59 p.m. and was reported to emergency dispatch by a cell phone caller, according to sheriff's department reports. Based on the items in her car, Follis said it appeared as Sweckard was on a business trip and may have been headed toward Ashland to spend the night.

A helicopter from St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth was initially contacted, but was later cancelled once the coroner was called to the scene.

The Washburn Police Department and Ashland Fire and Ambulance responded to the accident, Follis said, along with the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department and

CRASH: Driver transported to MMC for medical exam

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the Wisconsin State Patrol. Emergency units were on the scene until at least 10:20 p.m., according to reports.

Follis said the state patrol was involved in order to investigate the semi truck, which was hauling a partial load of toppers from 20th

Century Fiberglass. The driver was transported to Memorial Medical Center for a medical examination, and was later taken to an Ashland motel.

Duluth police contacted the victim's family late Wednesday night, according to reports.

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